

# Nation



## Indigenous presence

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overcomes threat of funding cut**

**Stan Louttit 1950-2014**

**Strateco closes  
Matoush camp**

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## Cree perseverance

by Will Nicholls

The decision by Strateco Resources to tear down its uranium-development camp in the Otish Mountains north of Mistissini is something that all Crees can celebrate. From the grassroots to the band council to the Grand Council, people came together to speak with one voice: we will never accept uranium mining in Eeyou Istchee.

The company explained it away as an economic decision. "This decision is part of a cost-cutting program that Strateco must adopt due to the Quebec government's refusal to issue the final permit needed to start the advanced exploration phase of the Matoush project," said a Strateco press release.

But we have to give credit where credit is due. This struggle evolved into a campaign that included grassroots Cree and the leadership of local and regional Cree governments.

It was a difficult battle to stop this uranium mine from becoming a reality and every Cree should be proud of the stance and work they did to achieve their goals of preserving the vital ecology of this region.

At a BAPE hearing in Montreal Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come said, "Our position is clear: uranium development is not welcome in our territory, Eeyou Istchee." He gave the same message almost every Cree expressed in the past to today adding, "This is a burden on future generations that we are not prepared to assume."

Even though the BAPE process does not ordinarily have jurisdiction in Eeyou Istchee, Coon Come said the decision to participate was because the "Cree Nation recognized the need for a broad and independent inquiry and consultation process, regarding the uranium sector as a whole in Quebec."

Coon Come expressed the Cree concerns by stating, "Large quantities of radioactive waste must inevitably be produced in the course of mining uranium, and this waste will remain dangerous and toxic for hundreds of thousands of years. This is a burden on future generations that we are not prepared to assume."

Coon Come added the Crees were not alone in their opposition as many Quebec communities have similar sentiments.

Strateco will continue its court battles to force approval for the mine – or at least make Quebec taxpayers fork out millions to compensate for lost profits. But, in the end, the unshakeable opposition among the Crees and their allies proved to be too much for the company to overcome.

As a result Strateco has already started selling off their assets to other mining outfits in Eeyou Istchee and that says a lot. The press release promises, "The Matoush camp will be closed in such a way as to protect the environment and human health, in keeping with the approach Strateco has taken since the start of the Matoush project in 2006."

Almost eight long years ago, the community of Mistissini took a collective decision to oppose uranium mining and exploration. Given the health risks and other dangers associated with the uranium industry, the Cree felt it was an unacceptable burden for future generations and the well being of the land and its inhabitants. There were many other resource-development projects that were more beneficial and sustainable than uranium mining.

Every Cree should be proud that this challenge has been met and overcome through efforts involving all aspects of Cree values and traditions.

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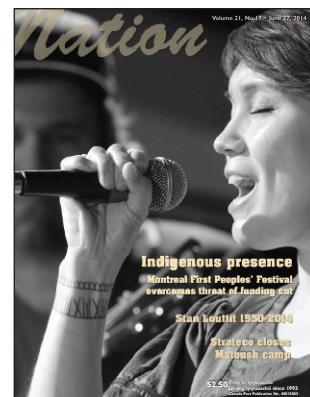
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## Life is like a...

by Sonny Orr

Long ago, before Facebook and email, before television and radio, before we knew what a university was or an outside place to get schooled without being taken away by force or trickery, there was the hands-on training method.

This was called the old school way of learning. If you didn't listen to your teacher, whoever it was – parents, grandparents, family and even the schoolteachers – you would lose out on valuable information that could save your life, for what it was worth. This was knowledge and it was biologically based and stored in a chemical solution called the brain and then transferred to a long-lasting substance, like a flat rock or a rugged piece of paper.

Our learning process was intensively visual and a good memory and good habits helped a lot. When you couldn't get by, gentle ribbing or even a hostile push of your ego into the abyss of helplessness made the real world, well... real.

This old school way of learning is the most utilized method of teaching in the world, as most of the world doesn't have access to the modern way of education. However, since old school methods are still widely used, let us not forget that the old school demanded strength, commitment, determination and the drive to get it done and go to work and make some money!

Today, the drive to learn uses modern technology, without the hassle of hands-on experience. But, in a way, we are caught between the old school way of learning and the new school system. Many people believe that a child needs the right guidance to find their own

way, that one who is learning must feel some pain to understand what it is and the sense of accomplishment to boost their self-esteem.

I was taught that life is like a butterfly. First, the need for abundance and an environment good to raise young ones is required. Then the cycle of growth, the caterpillar to slowly move around and consume energy and store it, then the cocoon phase where change takes place from infant to adulthood, then the pain of entering the adult world.

Watching this on a nature channel shows how much the butterfly struggles to enter into the world. You feel the pain and see the incredible strength needed to exit the cocoon they have lived in for so long. One tried to assist the emerging butterfly by breaking off the cocoon, but the butterfly collapsed and died.

Apparently for the butterfly, what is mistaken for pain is actually a hydraulic pressure activation process, where pressure from exiting the cocoon is needed to evenly distribute the much-needed liquid skeleton – in this case, the exoskeleton – around the body before it could harden into place.

For a mosquito, this process takes the time of an eye blink. For a butterfly, it is amazingly slow. So, pain, endurance, strength and existence often have close ties to a butterfly's cycle of life. Sometimes, we need to look back at our young lives and see where we grew because of pain and suffering. Most times you will see the emergence of that "butterfly."

So next time you see a butterfly flutter by, think about going through life, old-school style.

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## Strateco announces it will close Matoush project camp

By Jesse Staniforth

The project may not be finished, but the camp is closing. As debate about Strateco Resources' Matoush uranium project is taken up by the hearings of the Bureau de l'Audiences Publique sur l'Environnement (BAPE), Strateco announced June 12 that it is closing the Matoush camp and selling off the camp's equipment and buildings to Stornaway Diamonds.

"This means that we're cutting costs," Strateco president and CEO Guy Hébert told the Nation. "It costs us about \$1.5-million to keep the camp running, and because the BAPE will have no decision before mid-2015, we decided to close the camp. We expect everything will be gone by the end of September."

He remained optimistic, however, saying that if it will take two more years for the BAPE to be finished, "maybe the same temporary buildings [sold to Stornaway] will be available two years from now."

Bill Namagoose, executive director of the Grand Council of the Crees, does not think it's likely that the project will pick up again.

"That's wishful thinking," he said. "Their permit has already been refused by the Quebec government. I know they're contesting it in court, but the government has already decided they're not going to get their permit due to a lack of social acceptability. The project has been refused. They should accept and understand that."

However, Hébert said he believes that the Matoush project will eventually go ahead, and that if it continues it will offer good things to the Cree Nation.

"The Crees need [the Matoush project] for job creation for the youth," he argued. "They have a big, big problem for job creation. And it's not during the phase of construction

where you create jobs – it's when you do [training]. When the project is going – like Stornaway and us and other projects in the area, they can go for 20, 25, 30 years – that's where you create jobs."

For Hébert, the real failure of the project so far has been in communication. He said that Strateco did not do a

**"THEY SHOULD JUST READ THE WRITING ON THE WALL. DISMANTLE THE CAMP FOREVER, MOVE AWAY, AND NEVER COME BACK."**

BILL NAMAGOOSE,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
THE GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREE



good enough job of informing the public in the Cree Nation about the safety of uranium mining and exploration.

"We had some good relations," he said. "It went sour. Eventually we'll find the reason. We still have good relations with the tallymen in the area. Eventually, people will change: could be us, could be the Crees. We'll see what the BAPE is saying."

Despite the obstacles, Hébert says his enthusiasm for the project is still "fantastic."

"The Crees and the people will understand that nuclear energy is very safe and they need it," he said. "The planet needs it. If nothing is done, and we continue to produce electricity with coal or fossil-fuel energy, within 50 to 100 years, the planet we know will be done."

Hearing this, Namagoose laughed. "You just have to ask the Navaho, I guess, how safe uranium mining is," he observed, referring to the contamination left by 42 years of uranium mining on traditional Navaho lands, and, specifically, the 1979 Church Rock uranium mill disaster, which flooded the water

supply in the Navaho Nation with radioactive material from a local mine. That disaster was arguably the largest radioactive-materials spill in US history.

However, even from a purely economic perspective, said Namagoose, the future of uranium looks dim.

"Uranium prices have gone down ever since Fukushima," he said. "The

Japanese cannot restart their nuclear reactors because of a court decision. And also, the shale-gas phenomenon in North America is working against them. The legal process has ruled against them. The market is moving against them. They should just read the writing on the wall. Dismantle the camp forever, move away, and never come back."

Hébert said that if the province of Quebec decides against the Matoush project, it can expect to be sued by the company's shareholders.

"If the government doesn't want to have it," he said, "then they will have to reimburse our investment. Eventually I think this will go forward. Or the shareholders of Strateco will get their money back."

Namagoose said he didn't think that was very likely either.

"It's up to the shareholders to do what they want. They have the right to try to recover their money, but usually when you make an investment, it's not guaranteed by the government. Your investment is at the whim of the market."



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# Stan Louttit, 1950-2014

## Mushkegowuk Council loses its Grand Chief to cancer

by Amy German

After fighting cancer for two years, Mushkegowuk Grand Chief Stan J. Louttit has succumbed to the disease at 64 years old. He leaves behind his wife, Sharon, four daughters and nine grandchildren.

According to Mushkegowuk Deputy Grand Chief Leo Friday, Louttit's passing came as a shock to his coworkers. While it was well known that Louttit was sick, Friday said he wasn't expecting him to pass before the fall.

Friday described Louttit as a fighter for his people.

"He was the kind of guy who could work with anybody. He was an open kind of guy with a big heart. He would tell you what needs to be done and what he wanted to be done. He was a very open-hearted and open-minded person. If there was something wrong he would tell you and try to help you," said Friday.

"Our Grand Chief was a great warrior. When people called him from up North he would go without hesitation to support the communities and see what is going on. That was the kind of man he was," he went on to say.

Saddened by the news, Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come also made a statement:

"I have known Grand Chief Stan for several years. Stan was a man of great integrity, respectful and a powerful voice of reason," said Coon Come.

"Grand Chief Stan was never afraid to get his hands dirty and was always in the middle of any issue that directly affected his people of the western coast of James Bay. He will surely be missed by his family and friends for his humour, for his wisdom and for his friendship."

In a press release on behalf of himself and MPP Gilles Bisson, Timmins-James Bay MP Charlie Angus spoke of Louttit as a leader.

"Stan worked with the entire region to improve life for everyone. He was really active in pursuing economic development opportunities that would bring wealth to Timmins-James Bay," Angus said.

"He loved life. He loved music, the Montreal Canadiens... but most of all he loved people, and that's something he should be remembered for."

On June 13, as Louttit was being laid to rest, Angus honoured him in the House of Commons, speaking of his many accolades and passions.

Louttit was born on April 29, 1950, on his family trapline on Lake River, north of Attawapiskat. While he was a member of the Fort Albany First Nation, he grew up in Attawapiskat.



Stan Louttit, 1950-2014

At the time of his death he was serving his third consecutive four-year term as Grand Chief of Mushkegowuk Council and had been active in local and regional issues both as an administrator and elected politician for the last quarter of a century.

Over the course of his lengthy career he held positions with Department of Indian Affairs, Moose Factory General Hospital (Health Canada) and Moose Cree First Nation. In his political career he contested elected positions with the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (Deputy Grand Chief, five years) and before being elected by the seven Mushkegowuk communities as the Grand Chief of the Mushkegowuk Council in 2003 with reelections in 2007 and 2011.

Over the course of his career Louttit was honoured many times for his achievements. He received a Ministerial Award and the Governor General's Medal of Bravery for his work during the Winisk flood of 1986, the Emile Nakogee Leadership Award of Excellence during his term as Deputy Grand Chief of NAN and his appointment to an Expert Panel on Water by the federal Minister of Indian Affairs based on his efforts during the Kashechewan Water Crisis in 2005.

More recently he received an honorary Doctorate Degree in Education from Nipissing University in June 2012.

## Wemindji youth ready to rock Nicaragua

The dream is finally becoming a reality for the students and teachers of Wemindji Rocks Nicaragua. After months of planning, hard work and tireless fundraising, the team of 15 ambitious youth from Wemindji have reached their goal.

The students and five chaperones will leave Wemindji July 6, starting their 26-hour journey to Nicaragua. Working in collaboration with social-change organizations Education First and Me to We, the students will be volunteering in the western town of El Trapiche where they will take part in the building of either a school or youth centre for a community in need.

Secondary 3 student Cheryl Danyluk said she hopes to inspire others to do more volunteer work.



"You can't be shy, you have to be a leader," Danyluk said. "You have to take it upon yourself to make changes, to become more aware."

Trip organizer and teacher Carmen Plank says the group is pumped up over having met their \$90,000 financial goal. Plank stressed that while this idea was rooted in education, it is not a school trip as such. The students had to take initiative and go into the community outside of school hours to raise awareness and reach their goals.

Frank Atsynia, Deputy Chief of the Cree Nation of Wemindji and a whole-hearted supporter since the beginning, lauded the effort and commitment the students put forth.

"My hope is that these students will continue on in their lives and accomplish even greater things. They should believe that whatever they set their minds to, they can accomplish," said Atsynia.

The team has also been the beneficiaries of large and generous donations from a number of entities. Without these

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donations there would be no trip, so the Nicaragua team wishes to make their thanks known to the following corporations and organizations:

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- Kookums and Friends
- Wemindji Wellness Centre
- Wemindji Awesome 80's Club
- Quality Inn, Montreal
- Air Creebec
- All private donors and community contributions to raffle, penny social,

bake sale, spaghetti dinners, comedy night, concert and alumni hockey game events.

## Election coming to Mistissini

Band council elections in Mistissini will be held on Tuesday, July 15 (8:00 am to 8:00 pm), at the Emmet H. Macleod Conference room in the Issac Shecapio Sr. Administration Building.

Advance polls are scheduled for July 8 and 9 (8:00 am to 8:00 pm) at the same location.

Travel polls will be available Thursday, July 10 (3:00 am to 9:00 pm) at Camp Eleonore, Camp Stornoway, Senneterre Friendship Centre, and the Grand Council offices in Montreal and Ottawa.

The candidates are as follows:

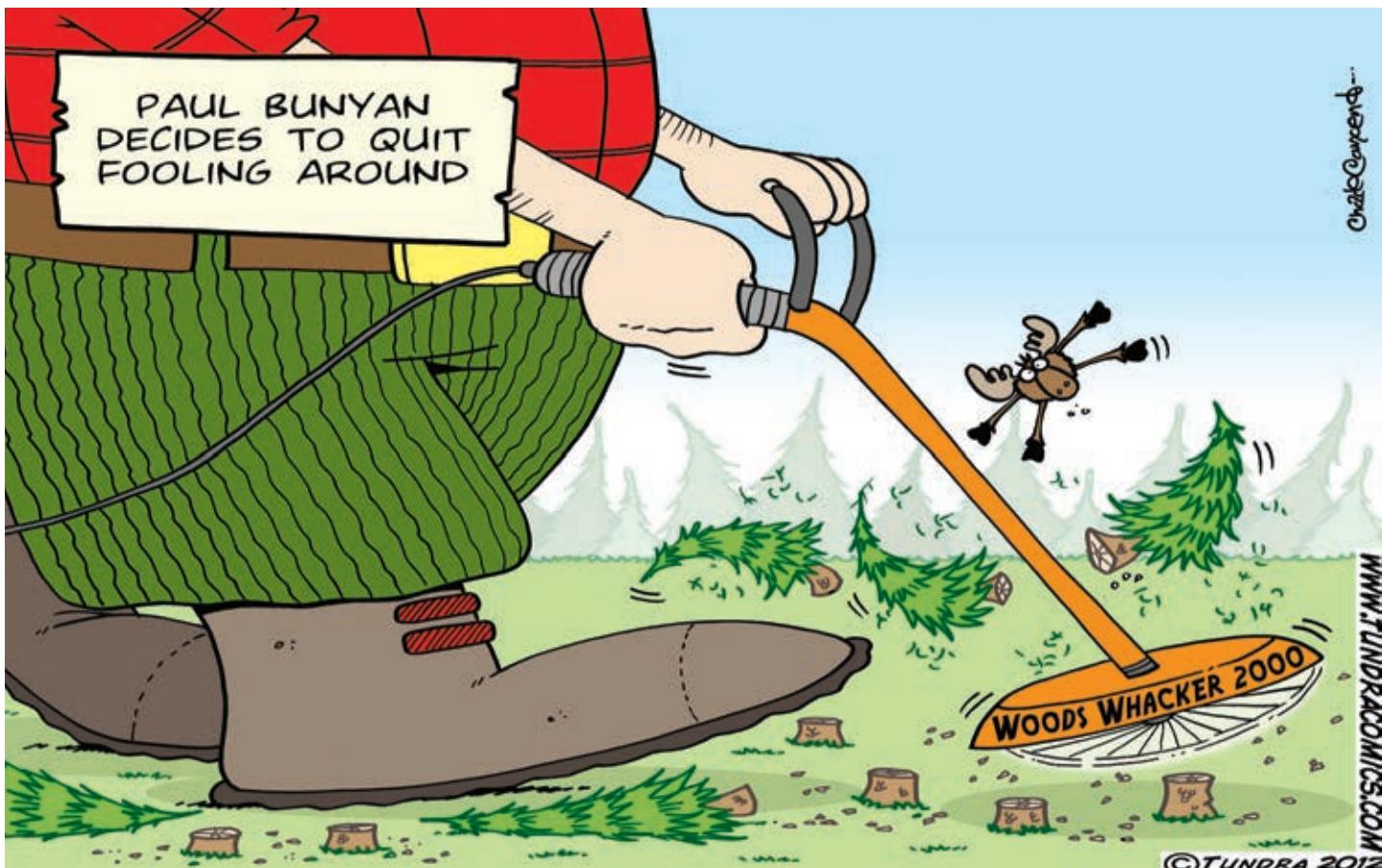
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Adrian Stimson - *Beyond Redemption*

**C**ontemporary art is often inaccessible to the casual art lover, especially when it's abstract and symbolic. But even before you see Anishinabe artist Frank Shebageget's video installation *Hockey Night in Northwestern Ontario*, you understand it. All you need to do is hear the sound of a hockey telecast broken up by the static of long-distance broadcast interference and immediately every hockey game you've ever watched on rabbit ears outside of a big city comes flooding back to you.

Remembering those experiences is part of what curator Michael Patten (from Sakimay First Nation in

Saskatchewan) hoped to achieve through his selection of art the 2nd Edition of the Contemporary Native Art Biennial, spread between the Art Mûr and Stewart Hall art galleries in Montreal, ending June 21.

The theme and title of the exhibition is *Storytelling*. But it is also, Patten says, about "history, and of course about education – about the different systems of education in First Nations culture, versus a European model. I wanted to tie it into what's been in the news lately about the First Nations Education Act, which was ultimately killed."

# Traditional forms in modern art

## The Contemporary Native Art Biennial returns to Montreal

By Jesse Staniforth



Photo Eve Kotyk

In his essay in the collection's catalogue, Patten notes that while there has never been a system of Aboriginal education acknowledged by colonial powers, the form of knowledge sharing recognized by most Nations is storytelling. Unlike European approaches to education, he says, oral storytelling "leaves knowledge undefined, subject to interpretation." The many works in the Biennial present different takes on Aboriginal histories and traditions that are open to interpretation – and many offer modern reflections of traditional stories.

Two examples of this kind of interpretation occur in pieces by Montreal and Brooklyn Mohawk artists dealing

with the Haudenosaunee creation story of the Fall of Sky Woman (Atahensic). In Hannah Claus' hands, the legend becomes a sculpture of curtains called *Cloudscape*, while in Amelia Winger-Bearskin's video *Creation Story* it becomes a surreal array of bright images.

"The overarching theme is storytelling [and education], but the subtitle to that is ecology," Patten says. "There's a lot that came up with that in the works I selected – this concern [about the earth]. At first I just wanted to find artists I really liked, [but then] I felt that was a theme that was running through my selections. So I tightened the screws on that to make it my focus."



Jordan Bennett - *Artifact Bags*

The mixture of those interests is clear in Mi'kmaq artist Jordan Bennett's *Artifact Bags*: moose, deer and elk-skin shopping bags seared with the corporate logos of Wal-Mart, Target and Giant Tiger (whose stores in Western Canada are operated by the North West Company, parent company of Northern stores). This stark contrast between traditional materials that are still in use by many Northern peoples and the disposable plastic branding of corporations selling discount goods is simultaneously funny and sad. True to Patten's goal, the *Artifact Bags* tell a quiet story about the change in Indigenous lifestyles after colonization. Where once communities prized goods made from materials like buckskin, which were taken respectfully from the land, today most of what people have are cheap goods shipped in

from China and sold in plastic bags.

While some of the work is more abstract, and some is more symbolic, all of it deals with familiar images and plays upon traditional artistic styles most visitors will recognize.

"This is the second edition of our biennial," Patten says. The first edition, in 2012, was curated by Montreal-based Kitigan Zibi artist Nadia Myre, and dealt with issues of territory and politics.

"There wasn't another show like it here, that was dedicated to First Nations art, so there was really a need for it," Patten explains. "Since then we've had Sakahan [International Indigenous Arts, at the National Gallery of Canada] and Beat Nation [at the Montreal Museum of Contemporary Art], but I think we're the only Biennial that's every two years in Canada dedicated to it."

As a westerner who has lived in Montreal since 2003, Patten says at first he didn't see much in the way of an Aboriginal community in the city.

"The percentages are higher out west," he says. "I found, coming here at first, that you don't see [First Nations communities in Montreal] visibly."

However, the Biennial has brought together communities who are present even if they aren't visible, and, says Patten, "opened up a sense of how much of a [First Nations] community there is here. Since we've been doing the project, our network has grown and I'm more aware of the artists here working, and the other organizations that help."

*Contemporary Native Art Biennial ran at Art Mûr (5826 St-Hubert, Montreal) and Stewart Hall Art Gallery (176 Lakeshore Rd, Pointe-Claire)*

# Triumph over adversity

## Chisasibi woman overcomes brain tumour to complete PhD studies

By Amy German

You would never know it to look at her now but not even a year ago Sarah Pash was so debilitated by a brain tumour that she couldn't manage to get through her workday.

Now on the other end of her journey, the 42-year-old mother of four has just graduated from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay having completed her Doctorate in Education with a specialization in First Nations Student Success.

It all began nine years ago when Pash decided to go back to school to begin her Masters studies at Lakehead. She was living in North Bay at the time because her husband was pursuing his Bachelors degree in Education.

"I decided to pursue this out of concern for kids, for my own kids and for the kids in my family," said Pash.

Pash had actually started out as a teacher in her home community of Chisasibi at James Bay Eeyou School where she taught various levels. But she had difficulty with the fact that there was such a "drop off" between the number of children who registered and those who graduated.

She said this prompted her to go into a doctorate program and use her time studying to see why Eeyou Istchee has so many children who leave school and find solutions to improve school success rates.

For the first few years, Pash said that her studies went really well. Then, about five years ago, she started to feel pain in her head

and down her left side. She was also very fatigued.

"As the years went by it just got worse and worse and different things would set it off like loud noises, going from hot to cold temperatures, air conditioning or being in arenas. Any kind of stimulation would set off these spasms of pain but they just couldn't figure it out at the hospital," said Pash.

Despite taking a wide variety of pain medication, her condition began to degenerate. Though she could function in her daily life, Pash could no longer concentrate enough to pursue her studies.

She took a position as the Director of Programs at the Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute three years ago and moved to Chibougamau. But eight months into her new job the pain had finally become too much to bear.

Finally, a doctor sent her for an MRI, which revealed Pash had a three-centimetre tumour in her brain located between her ear and brainstem. Her only treatment option was surgery.

"We had to find a surgeon that was able to do that type of surgery because it was tricky. The tumour was right on my facial nerve muscles and my auditory nerves. They had to figure out what to do and so it took a while to plan out," said Pash.

In September 2013, Pash finally had her surgery and while she said that the doctors were able to save all of the nerves for the muscular function of her face, she did lose the function on the auditory



Sarah Pash

nerves on her left side. The upside, however, is that she finally is pain free.

Fully recovered by January of this year, Pash was back at work and decided that it was time to resume her studies. The university allowed her to re-register in the program given that her previous departure was because of illness.

With her doctoral defense completed this past March, Pash was now ready to graduate and managed to do so with honours, receiving the William A. West medal as the highest-ranked graduate student.

As for her future, that is a story yet to be written. While very happy in her current employment, she hasn't closed the door on education.

"I would love to be able to apply everything that I have studied and so if that opportunity were open to help out, I would definitely do that," said Pash.



Faith-Lynn Ottereys-Trapper with Delmer Hughboy



Allan Icebound with Yazmine Blacksmith.

## Male role models Young men enter the childcare work force

By Akiva Levitas

It's rare that men will teach young children at daycare centres and schools across the province.

Many reasons are behind this, particularly that women are more likely to go into the field of education. There is also society's entrenched view of women as a nurturer that is more involved in the rearing of children. Breaking the mold however are two young men among a class of 14 who have spent the year training as educators in Native Childcare at Cégep de St-Félicien.

Allan Icebound and Delmer Hughboy, both in their early 20s, began their studies in March 2013 along with 19 others and are set to complete the program for educa-

tor in Native Childcare by July 16. The rigorous program requires students to complete 18 competencies, which consist of fostering Native values and culture, safety measures, guidance methods, among many others. The educators in training also were required to complete work placements of 1,455 hours at the childcare centre.

Taking the plunge into the field at first was a bit challenging for the two young men and 12 female students. But after going through the program, the entire class of 2013 developed a tight bond. "At first no one knew each other," Icebound said. "But after we spent time

together the whole class was working together like a family."

This is the first time men have completed this program in instructor Holly Nathan's 10 years of teaching it in Wemindji.

"Although the program is not gender specific it has always been women that are interested in [the program]," Nathan explained. "It is the first time I'm seeing males taking part and it was nice to see their perspective."

By taking part in the program, Nathan believes the addition of the young men into the childcare work force will provide a positive male role model into the lives of First Nations children many of whom



Back row left to right: Amanda Pien, Caroline Icebound, Brigette Happyjack-Belanger, Delmer Hughboy, Amelia Otter, Trudy Icebound, Angelina Happyjack, Christina Cooper, Susan Mianscum, Sharlene Gull.  
 Front Row left to right: Holly Nathan, Priscilla Ottereyes, Allan Icebound, Beatrice Saganash, Rhoda Moar

come from single-parent homes of usually a mother.

Although going through the program is a challenge, the young men faced extra hurdles as they crossed a cultural norm.

"Sometimes the kids would say stuff like 'You can't be a teacher. You're a boy!'" Icebound recalled. "In the end it was my motivation to be a good role model that got me to finish the program."

As the program comes to a close, the educators will no longer be in training and will set out to make a difference in the lives of Native children and give them 14 more role models.



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**For more information contact:**  
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 \*\*Includes golf fee & dinner

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# Indigenous Presence



Place des Festivals

photo Andréanne Lemire, Terres en vues

## Montreal First Peoples' Festival overcomes threat of funding cut

By Amy German

Much like the many Quebec Native communities it represents to the world, Présence Autochtone, Montreal's First Peoples' Festival, has seen its fair share of struggles. And yet, this remarkable showcase of Indigenous arts of all kinds has managed to weather the storm once again to come out on top and offer up a plus-sized cornucopia of treasures for the 2014 edition of the festival and also big news for the future of the festival.

According to André Dudemaine, Artistic Director for Terre en vues/Land InSights, the company that puts on Présence Autochtone, the festival has seen an incredible turnaround in the last few months despite the threat of funding cuts.

In early March, Terre en vues mobilized supporters in a social-media campaign after the Partenariat du Quartier des spectacles (a City of Montreal council that handles funding for festivals in the downtown core)

announced that it would withhold \$100,000 in festival grants.

Dudemaine explained that while the festival has over 30 sources of revenue – the largest being Heritage Canada and the aforementioned Partenariat – any kind of major funding cut could have jeopardized the festival.

"Finally the city looked at it and decided that they would bridge the gap in our budget and allowed some funding for the next three years. I don't know



photo Isabelle Dubois

Sinuupa will perform August 2 at the Place des festivals.



Shaut will perform at Club Soda

how much money this will be, but it will be significant enough for us to have a festival," said Dudemaine.

Adding to this win, according to Dudemaine, Montreal has since asked Terre en vues to reexamine its business and festival model since the festival will get a permanent home in a new cultural and artistic venue for First Nations in 2017 for Montreal's 375th birthday celebration.

"They asked us to think about what our programming will look like when this new venue for First Nations is opened," explained Dudemaine.

"This venue will work with the existing organizations in Montreal, mainly the three most active groups – Wapikoni, Unvinuk (Yves Sioui Durand theatre) and Terre en vues. We are the three organizations that have made an agreement to be moved into this new building."

The new plan will not only see the unification of these three artistic companies under one roof, it will also establish a permanent Indigenous artistic and cultural presence in Montreal and provide for programming throughout the year.

While the plan to create a hub for Native art and culture has been talked about by the City of Montreal since 1995, it has only now provided the cash to build this new centre in light of the 375th anniversary celebrations.

According to Dudemaine, while a location for this centre has not been selected, what has been discussed is that it will be a new building with a specific "architectural signature." He said there is about \$30 million on the table but this is for the entire project – everything from construction to office furnishings.

What is exciting for Dudemaine is that Montreal will finally have a specific landmark to represent the Indigenous cultures of Quebec.

"One of the goals is to be a reference centre for visitors to the city and a door that will open channels to the people who want to learn more. So we want this new venue to play a role for the communities throughout the territory when it comes to education and tourism and also economic and cultural levels. We want it to have benefits for the whole territory," said Dudemaine.

As for this year's festival, Terre en vues will be packing an artistic mega-punch into Place des Festivals from July 29 to August 5. This year's theme is about a "joyous anger."

According to Dudemaine, this theme was chosen because it is representative of current Aboriginal arts and the presenting artists.

"We have many reasons to be angry and this has led us to not only be resentful but also led us to action. This is joyful



Street food at Place des festivals

photo Andréanne Lemire, Terres en vues

as it has made us go further and it is also the essence of the Idle No More movement," said Dudemaine.

In that vein, Algonquin rapper Samian will be pushing his new album on July 31 on the main stage to kick off the festival.

As the party can't keep rolling all night long on an outdoor stage, the Samian show will be followed by a cabaret performance by Shauit at Club Soda and run late into the night in what Dudemaine is calling one of "the parties of the year."

Not to be outdone, the following night the festival will also be teaming up with MEG (Montreal Electronic Groove festival) for a night of outdoor dance amid the many spectacular art installations of Présence Autochtone with a DJ party featuring France's Acid Arab and then Cris Derksen, a viola virtuoso putting on a duet with DJ Shub from Tribe called Red.

Giving a shot to the up-and-comers in the Quebec's Indigenous music scene on August 2, Inuit singer-songwriters Beatrice Deer and Sinuupa will be the main event on the outdoor stage and are guaranteed to put on an unforgettable performance.

During the daytime the festival will focus on theatre this year with Native legends coming to life.

For this, the fest hired multidisciplinary artist Moe Clark to serve as narrator and vocalist for a street theatre piece that depicts the traditional tale of the

Soleil pris au piège (Sun Caught in a Trap). Accompanying her will be Véronique Hébert, an Atikamekw thespian, with music created by Katia Makdissi-Warren (OktoÉcho).

According to Dudemaine, in previous years there was a focus on celebrating Indigenous cultures abroad. The 2014 edition is more about the people of Quebec and this is reflected in the programming.

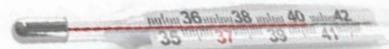
Naturally the film and video segment is back and with it comes a deluge of screenings of Indigenous films from around the world, competing for various prizes. This year's event will see a new prize awarded courtesy of APTN for the Indigenous cinematographer who has had the most impact throughout the year.

Plus, the festival will have all sorts of other goodies, from traditional craft demonstrations to the sale of traditional foods to traditional dance performances and competitions.

Adding to the festival's aesthetic glow will be spectacular new projections on the outdoor teepee walls by Anishnabe artist Caroline Monnet and her associate Sébastien Aubin.

"This is why it was so important that we got our funding, so that we can make all of these things happen," said Dudemaine.

For more info: [www.presenceautochtone.ca/](http://www.presenceautochtone.ca/)



# New life, new ways to live

## How to optimize your pregnancy for you and your baby

Whether it is a shock or a happy surprise, finding out that you are pregnant is a life-changing event, even when it is not your first baby. From that moment on, habits good or bad have to change.

But those changes don't have to be difficult just so long as you know what you need to do to give your new unborn child the best shot at life possible.

According to Dr. Marie Claude Berlie, a family physician in Waskaganish, the first thing to do is visit the clinic because all expectant mothers need to start taking folic acid for the healthy spinal-cord development to prevent neural tube defects. This should be taken for the first 12 weeks of a pregnancy, followed by a prenatal vitamin to ensure that the baby is getting enough nutrients.

It's also time to give up the vices: "Pregnant women need to know that alcohol, drugs and cigarettes are very harmful to the baby and so one of the first things to do is stop all alcohol and drugs," said Berlie.

Visiting with a local nutritionist is also a good idea.

According to public health Awash nutritionist Lucie Leclerc, what you eat when pregnant is important

because your diet contributes to the formation of a new life. Still, the concept of eating for two isn't quite what it sounds like.

"Eating for two does not mean eating two times more but more like eating two times better. For the baby to grow and develop well and for the mother to maintain her own good health, it is important that she chooses healthy foods. By that I mean choosing foods containing lots of nutrients, like vitamins and minerals," said Leclerc.

While it isn't uncommon for some women to gain a fair bit of weight during pregnancy, the reality is that the average woman only needs to gain about 15 pounds. And, if the mom is still a teen then she only needs to gain about 20 to 25 pounds to meet the demands as her own body is still growing too.

According to Berlie, how much weight a woman should gain while pregnant varies from person to person.

"This always depends on what your pre-pregnancy weight is. If you are over the healthy recommended weight for your height, you really don't need to gain much weight or any at all," said Berlie.



**"EATING FOR TWO DOES NOT MEAN EATING TWO TIMES MORE BUT MORE LIKE EATING TWO TIMES BETTER."**

# EMPLOYMENT NOTICE



## Director of Finance

**LOCATION: WEMINDJI, QUEBEC**

### **JOB SUMMARY:**

Responsible for the planning, forecasting, coordinating and controlling of the financial affairs of the corporation and all its subsidiary's and Tawich Construction Inc.

### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Provide accurate and complete monthly financial reports to Senior Management and the Board of Directors;
- Prepare annual budgets for the Corporation and its subsidiaries;
- Ensure the Corporation uses effective, profitable and accountable financial processes to achieve optimal performance and profitability;
- Oversee, implement and maintain operational accounting system;
- Direct and implement policies, financial systems and procedures regarding financial matters;
- Perform financial analysis of proposed actions, estimate risks, cash flow requirements, availability of funds, and loans if required and make recommendations on terms and conditions
- Direct the daily administration of cash balance, cash flow and financing of working capital and provide records for general audit;
- Participate in the management of the Corporation's financial transactions and businesses
- A respected, commendable and healthy Corporation image, internally and externally

### **QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:**

- Post-Secondary degree in Accounting, Business Administration or Management and/or equivalence to secondary

education with minimum formal training (diploma or certificate) in a related field or demonstrated academic, technical and professional competence in a related work situation;

- Minimum three (3) years' experience in a senior management position;
- Knowledge of Cree and English languages. French would be an asset;
- Knowledgeable in principles of financial and human resource management;
- Strong organizational, problem-solving skills, communication skills and interpersonal skills

Lodging will be provided by the development company, also travel expenses.

### **SALARY:**

- Depending on qualifications and industry standard
- Depending on qualifications and experience.

### **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:**

**July 31st 2014**

Please address applications to:

HR COMMITTEE  
Tawich Development Corporation  
1-819-978-0264  
21 Hilltop Drive, P.O. 210  
1-819-978-3253 fax  
Wemindji, Qc. J0M 1L0

For more information contact.

David Bull  
Chief operating officer  
Tawich Development Corporation  
[Coo@creenet.com](mailto:Coo@creenet.com)

"As the younger girls tend to be of a healthy weight but the older population tends to be heavier, if your pre-pregnancy weight is over your recommended weight then you shouldn't be gaining much at all."

During the first 12-week trimester, a pregnant woman only needs to eat about 100 extra calories per day, equivalent to an extra slice and a half of bread or a small bowl of cereal.

When planning your diet, however, favour quality over quantity, healthier food options over junk food. If you are unsure, never be afraid to ask.

Leclerc tells pregnant women that a nutritious meal should always include a good source of protein such as game meat, fish, birds, eggs or dried beans; a starch such as potatoes, rice or pasta or bread; plenty of colourful vegetables, some milk, fish broth or water to drink and a fruit or yogurt as a dessert.

There are also things to avoid during pregnancy that may not be so obvious.

According to Leclerc, liver is actually something to avoid if you are pregnant because excess vitamin A is stored in the liver and cannot be excreted.

With that said, just about any other type of meat is game!

There are also certain species of fish that are not recommended for pregnant women. These include many predatory fish with high mercury counts such as pike, walleye, lake trout and burbot. Many kinds of fish are perfectly safe for pregnant women, however. Follow this guide:

[www.creehealth.org/library/online/2013-northern-fish-nutrition-guide-fish-menu](http://www.creehealth.org/library/online/2013-northern-fish-nutrition-guide-fish-menu)

How food is prepared also requires close attention. Pregnant women should be careful with raw or uncooked meat, game or fish and all unpasteurized foods like some raw milk cheeses.

"Food hygiene is extremely important at this time and so it is important to ensure that the food that they are eating were well prepared and kept at the right temperature. Raw meat, fish or poultry should never come into contact with cooked meat, fish or bird because it can contaminate it and an

unborn child is simply not equipped to fight food intoxication at this time," said Leclerc.

## HOW FOOD IS PREPARED ALSO REQUIRES CLOSE ATTENTION. PREGNANT WOMEN SHOULD BE CAREFUL WITH RAW OR UNCOOKED MEAT, GAME OR FISH AND ALL UNPASTEURIZED FOODS LIKE SOME RAW MILK CHEESES.

To learn on this subject, go to: <http://hc-sc.gc.ca/fnan/securit/kitchen-cuisine/index-eng.php>

"If they can stick to traditional foods, this is also fabulous. They need to stay away from processed foods (think cheese wiz and pop tarts), candy and sweets and especially all of the pop, juice and drinks. I always tell my patients that 'Waska water' (tap water instead of bottled Eska) and milk is what they should be drinking," said Berlie.

As for the rest of the body, Berlie said that it is very important for women to get up, get out and get active because pregnancy isn't an illness and it should never be treated that way.

"Exercise is both important and necessary for all of us whether you are pregnant or not and in pregnancy it is very important to move. What is dangerous is if you do exercise where you can get injured or have a high risk of trauma to the baby. So no football or hockey because you don't want to have an injury where you need an X-ray or surgery to fix a broken bone," said Berlie.

While any kind of contact sport is definitely off the list for the gestational period (sorry ladies, no MMA!), there are all kinds of activities that can be incorporated into a pregnant life.

It is all relative to the individual, however. Berlie gave the example of a marathon runner getting pregnant; naturally she could go on running because

it is something she is well trained to do. But, someone who has never been into running may not want to pick it up as it may be too strenuous.

Instead, opt for activities like walks, swimming (where accessible) or certain kinds of traditional activities like snowshoeing.

Even heading out to the bush with the family can be fine, but it is the kind of thing that the mother-to-be should check out with her physician first. If she is having a high-risk pregnancy, it may be better to stay closer to where help is available in the event of an emergency.

Overall, Berlie said that it is important to stay active while pregnant for its overall effects.

"Exercise could provide some stress relief, it keeps you strong, it reduces the risk of diabetes and if you have diabetes it can help normalize your sugars. It can also be important for your mood and your mind if you go for walks with your partner because this is an important time to think about what kind of a parent you want to be. You can look around to your role models and think about what kind of a parent you want to be and so it is important to try and strengthen your relationships with your partner," said Berlie.

For more information on what to do when expecting, visit your local clinic.

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# FIRE IT UP

MORE THAN  
400 Recipes for Grilling Everything



BY ANDREW SCHLOSS AND DAVID JOACHIM

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ALEX MEECH

As summer may just as well be synonymous with grilling, one way to get the best out of the sweeter season and amp up your time at your barbecue is to invest some time reading into why you would pick a rub over a brine and learn how to make your own sauces.

This is where reading up on the best practices for barbecuing can come in handy because, unless you have studied cooking, you may not know how marinating enhances the flavour of your meat or, depending on the meat, why you would choose one prep method over another.

This is where books like *Fire It Up: 400 Recipes for Grilling Everything* by Andrew Schloss and David Joachim come in handy. Along with hundreds of recipes, the first few chapters of this book focus on the basics of grilling and are written in a way that even someone who

has never grilled before can learn how to be a top chef.

For those who are new to grilling, this is an excellent guide to get started or to improve techniques that will impress the neighbours. Handy and practical, this book also includes numerous temperature charts that will take the guessing out of how to make sure that your meat is perfectly grilled and safe for consumption.

Once more, almost like a course on food preparation, this book simply goes through various methods like marinades vs. brining vs. rubs, how to make a wide variety of each and how you would best preserve the integrity of each ingredient that you will be grilling. Plus, for those who are fed up with the sugary taste of cheap barbecue sauces, this book provides a wonderful array of recipes to learn how to make your

own sauces and what to pair them with.

Since it's an incredible shame when a good piece of meat gets overcooked or over-seasoned, particularly if it's a product of the land, invest the time to learn about the best practices for flavour enhancement, tool techniques and cooking methods.

This book also lays out the basics on cuts of meat so that if you are buying meat to grill, you can learn where it is from on the animal and how best to prepare each of these cuts.

*Fire It Up* is great as a grilling guide for novices and as a gift for the head griller of the family. It offers something for everybody – youth or Elder – because it is easy to read and so comprehensive.

## Bison Cheeseburgers with Horseradish Mustard

Serves 6

If you didn't know they were bison, you'd swear these were all-American cheeseburgers. To ramp up the flavour of the mild meat, we mix a little steak sauce into the meat and spoon some mayonnaise

flavoured with horseradish and mustard over the burgers. The addition of toppings like ripe slices of beefsteak tomatoes and torn pieces of crisp lettuce are entirely up to you, but resist the urge to cook these past medium doneness. Grilled bison burgers go from juicy to leathery in minutes.

### Ingredients:

$\frac{1}{3}$  cup whole-grain Dijon mustard  
2 tbsps prepared mayonnaise  
1 tbsp prepared horseradish  
2 lbs ground bison chuck  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup bottled steak sauce (like A1)  
1 tbsp olive oil

3 scallions (green & white parts), sliced  
 3/4 tsp coarse salt  
 1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper  
 6 slices sharp cheddar cheese  
 6 hamburger buns, split

**Directions:**

Mix the mustard, mayonnaise and horseradish in a small bowl. Heat a grill for direct medium heat, about 375°F. Using your hands, mix together the bison, steak sauce, oil, scallions, salt and pepper in a bowl until well blended; avoid over-mixing. Using a light touch, form into 6 patties no more than 1-inch thick.

Brush the grill grate and coat with oil. Grill the burgers directly over the heat for 6 to 7 minutes for medium-done (about 150°F on an instant-read thermometer, and slightly pink in the centre), flipping once. Put the cheese on the burgers 1 minute before they will be done. To toast the buns, grill them, cut-side down, directly over the heat for 1 to 2 minutes.

If serving the burgers directly from the grill, serve on the buns. If the burgers will sit, even for a few minutes, keep the burgers and buns separate until just before serving.

### Roasted Chicken with Garlic

We have gotten so used to roasting poultry in an oven that our first taste of fire-roasted chicken is often a palate-bending experience. The skin cracks between the teeth like a layer of lacquer, the flesh is soaked with juice, and the aromas of spices permeate every bite of meat. It is enough to make you chain up the oven and throw away the key. This recipe is basic and straightforward, and can be used as a standard template for grill-roasting chicken or any poultry (the timing will change, depending on the size of the bird).

Although chickens come in several sizes, if you don't have a rotisserie, choose a young bird (no more than 4 pounds). This will ensure that the flesh will cook through evenly in the

time it takes the skin to brown and crisp. It is best to rub any seasoning under the skin of the bird, right on the meat, where it does the most good. The layer of skin protects it from scorching.

**Ingredients:**

2 tbsps Poultry Rub  
 3 tbsps salted butter  
 2 tbsps minced garlic  
 2 tbsps minced fresh flat-leaf parsley  
 1 chicken (about 4 lbs) washed & patted dry  
 1 tbsp olive oil

**Directions:**

Light a grill for indirect medium heat, about 325°F. Mash together 1 tablespoon of the rub, the butter, garlic and parsley until well blended. Rub half the herb butter under the skin of the chicken all over the meat (see the Know-How, below); set aside the rest. Sprinkle the cavity with the remaining tablespoon of the rub. Adjust the skin so that it covers all of the meat and rub the skin liberally with the oil. Tie the chicken so that it holds its shape (see the Know-How). Brush the grill grate and coat with oil. Put the chicken on the grill away from the heat, cover the grill, and cook until an instant-read thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the inside of the thigh registers 165°F, about 1 hour and 20 minutes. Brush twice with the remaining garlic herb butter during the last 20 minutes of cooking. If you are using charcoal, you will probably have to replenish the coals after the first hour.

Remove chicken to a large serving platter. Let rest for 8 to 10 minutes, carve and serve.

**Poultry Rub**

Best with chicken, turkey, pork  
 Makes 1/2 cup  
 2 tbsps dark brown sugar  
 2 tbsps coarse salt  
 1 tbsp rubbed dried sage  
 1 tbsp dried thyme leaves  
 2 tbsps dried marjoram  
 2 tbsps dried rosemary (crushed)  
 2 tbsps garlic powder



1 tsp ground ginger  
 1 tsp ground black pepper  
 1 tbsps paprika  
 1/2 tsp grated nutmeg  
 Mix everything together. Store in a tightly closed container for up to one month.

### Charred Corn on the Cob with Grilled Tomato Oil

**Ingredients:**

4 ears corn, husks left on 1/2 cup  
 Grilled Tomato Oil (recipe below)

A grill is the best vessel you have for cooking corn. You don't need to husk, soak, boil or foil-wrap the corn. Just start the fire and throw the cobs on, husks and all. Close the lid and sit back. It will take about 15 minutes, and you will have to turn the cobs every 5 minutes or so, but that's it. During that time the husks will char and send a sweet vegetal smoke through the corn. When they're done, the husks will be burnt and you will hear steam hissing inside. You can let them sit for a minute or two and then peel and enjoy; or get some extra grill flavour by peeling back the husks and charring the corn briefly over the fire. Here, we serve the

grilled corn with glistening, rose-colored oil, flavoured and tinted with grilled tomato.

#### Directions:

Light a grill for direct medium-high heat, about 425°F. Grill the corn in their husks directly over the heat, turning every 5 minutes, until the husks are blackened all over, 15 to 18 minutes total. During the last 5 to 8 minutes, put on grill mitts and peel back the outer blackened husks to expose some of the corn kernels. Continue grilling until some of the corn kernels are browned and lightly charred. Remove from

the grill and let cool slightly. Remove the husks and brush generously with the tomato oil.

#### Keep It Simple:

Of course, you can slather your grilled corn with other sauces like pesto or good ol' butter and salt.

#### Grilled Tomato Oil

Best with veal, pork, chicken, shellfish, fish

Makes about 1 cup

4 ripe plum tomatoes, halved

½ cup best-quality extra-virgin olive oil

1 garlic clove, coarsely chopped

## EMPLOYMENT NOTICE



G. C. C. E. I.  
40th Anniversary  
1974 - 2014

Àsuveldàwàw ñiiyâpâkâw ñi ñiñiçâw (Àññi ñiñi)  
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)  
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

Àññi ñiñi  
Cree Nation Government  
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie



C. N. G.  
G. N. C.  
est. 1978

|                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>TITLE:</b>             | Communication Advisor        |
| <b>DIVISION:</b>          | Cree Development Corporation |
| <b>LOCATION:</b>          | To be Determined             |
| <b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS:</b> | Contractual                  |
| <b>SALARY:</b>            | \$56,158 to \$84,237         |

### CORE FUNCTIONS

Under the general direction and supervision of the Implementation Manager and, in due time, the President of the Cree Development Corporation, the Communication Advisor is responsible for planning, developing and monitoring internal and external communications for the Cree Development Corporation (CDC). The incumbent oversees all related communication policies, projects and initiatives to promote a positive image of the CDC and the services it offers.

### CHARACTERISTIC FUNCTIONS

#### *Internal communication responsibilities*

- Develop and execute comprehensive internal communication plans and strategies for the CDC that support its goals and priorities
- Develop and oversee internal communications policies
- Give recommendations to Implementation Manager/President on information flow mechanisms and media formats

- Is responsible for various internal publications and documents, such as employee newsletters, brochures and Intranet content
- Assist the Implementation Manager/President in communicating programs and initiatives in a way that will foster employee satisfaction and commitment levels

#### *External communication responsibilities*

- Define communication approaches for the CDC to inform general public and especially members of all Cree communities of objectives and initiatives set out by the CDC as well as their impacts
- Liaise with the communities, the CNG and other Cree organizations to ensure comprehension of local and regional needs in terms of investment and report back to the Implementation Manager/President
- Coordinate with relevant funding organizations to ensure efficiency of investments
- Is responsible for the media relations and the branding and visibility of CDC
- Responsible for the public information that needs proper diffusion to the respective organizations

1 large sprig fresh oregano or thyme

½ tsp honey

¼ tsp coarse salt

Light a grill for direct medium-high heat, about 425°F.

In a small bowl, toss the tomatoes with 1 tablespoon of the oil. Brush the grill grate and coat with oil. Grill the tomatoes, cut-side down, directly over the heat until nicely grill-marked, 3 to 4 minutes. Flip and grill until the other side is nicely marked, about 3 minutes more. Return to the bowl.

Transfer the grilled tomatoes and oil to a small food processor and puree until fairly smooth. Strain the sauce

through a food mill or push gently through a fine-mesh sieve into a small saucepan, leaving behind much of the solids. Add the garlic and oregano to the pan and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce the heat to a simmer and cook until the liquid is reduced by half, about 10 minutes. Remove from the heat and strain the liquid into a small container with a tight-fitting lid, such as a canning jar. Add the honey and salt, stirring until dissolved. Let cool, then whisk in the remaining olive oil.

Refrigerate for up to four days. If the cold oil becomes cloudy, it will clear when returned to room temperature.

## EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

- Develop and execute communications plans, as part of an overall program or in support of a particular service or initiative, such as writing news articles, press releases, advertisements, messages, presentations and radio shows
- Plan and design the Annual Report
- Ensure that the CDC's website is maintained and updated regularly

### **Administrative responsibilities**

- Manage the agenda for the Implementation Manager/President and prepare necessary documentation for meetings when required
- Maintain and increase knowledge and skills through attendance at meetings, conferences, and training seminars
- Perform other related tasks as requested by Implementation Manager/President

## QUALIFICATIONS

### **Education and certification**

- College degree in administration, communication, multimedia or a related field

### **Experience**

- Five to eight years of relevant work experience in communication or in a related field

### **Language**

- Fluency in Cree and English
- French is a definitive asset

### **Knowledge and abilities**

- Excellent communication (written and oral) and interpersonal skills
- Strong judgment skills
- Good organizational skills and the ability to coordinate multiple tasks
- Ability to work under pressure and respect deadlines

- Good project management skills
- Good computer skills and knowledge of Microsoft Office products

### **Additional requirements**

- Typical office setting where there are no unusual physical demands
- Willingness to travel

## INFORMATION

This position is also posted on the Web sites of:  
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) /Cree Nation Government: [www.gcc.ca](http://www.gcc.ca)  
Cree Human Resources Development (CHRD): [www.chrd.ca](http://www.chrd.ca)

## APPLICATION

### **Application Period**

June 23 to July 18, 2014.

### **Application**

Your application must be sent by mail, fax or email to:

Rodney W. Hester, MPA  
Director of Government Services  
Cree Nation Government  
2 Lakeshore Road  
Nemaska, Québec  
J0Y 3B0  
Fax: 1-819-673-2606  
Email: [rwhester@cra.qc.ca](mailto:rwhester@cra.qc.ca)

The CDC may, at its discretion, waive any or all of the aforementioned requirements if a suitable candidate who is a JBNQA beneficiary accepts to follow a training plan determined by the CDC as a condition of employment.



## UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

# Homage to Stan Louttit

by Xavier Kataquapit

**I**t was a very cold day and we were struggling along in our little red car through near-blizzard conditions on our way to Thunder Bay. My cousin Ron, my friend Mike and I were accustomed to dealing with slippery, remote roads like Highway 101 west of Timmins. As we drove, huge transport trucks emerged like ghosts from the snowy whiteouts on the thin ribbon of ice that was 101. The little heater in the car squealed with the fan on high, barely managing to keep the minus-30° temperature on the outside of the car. On either side of us there was only wilderness blanketed in many feet of fluffy snow and Thunder Bay seemed like a million kilometres away.

Happily, we had planned a brief stopover in Fox Lake First Nation near Chapleau to visit the legendary Lindy Louttit and his daughter Wabimeguil (Betty Albert). We were looking forward to visiting their art studio located in this tiny First Nation just off Highway 101. By the time we reached Fox Lake we were all happy to take a break from the storm.

Lindy met us at the door and ushered us in with Cree greetings and laughs. We toured the studio and felt fortunate to see the artist at work in powerful images of oil on canvas. It felt as if we were visiting old friends and soon we were sitting, drinking tea and having a bite to eat. This was the old way, the Cree way and the northern way of having a visit. When we announced that it was time to get back on the road and head for our political event in Thunder Bay, Lindy protested as only Lindy could. There was no arguing with this man. So we decided to leave the raging winds and snow to be comforted by this amazing father-daughter duo.

We all laughed until our bellies hurt and we learned a few things about life, art and survival from the colourful stories Lindy told us. After a hot supper and evening of stories we were given comfy beds and when we awoke in the morning they had breakfast waiting for us. It was

as though the angels were watching over us. Sadly, Lindy passed away some years ago yet I think of him often.

Back on the road, the storm had passed and we had a much easier time on the salted and sanded Highway 101. When we reached Thunder Bay we all felt a little intimidated about attending a major First Nation political event. However, our nervous anxiety fell to the wayside as we were greeted by a tall, fit-looking man who welcomed us in to share the room with many of the most powerful political leaders of the First Nations of northern Ontario. Stan Louttit, although a powerful and well-respected leader, asked us to join him at his table and in true Cree fashion managed a few witty jokes to relax us. My cousin Ron and I chatted with him in Cree and he provided us with all the information we needed to understand the meaning of the meeting. He made us all feel welcome. He helped us to understand that even though we were in the midst of important leaders and attending a serious meeting it was also a gathering of mere mortals trying to do something good for their friends, neighbours and families. In the setting of a hotel conference room Stan made us feel at home.

I was very sad to learn that recently this giant of a man in terms of spirit, wisdom and kindness had passed away. He had been battling cancer for some time and has been taken from us far too early in his life. Stan was such a strong and positive voice for First Nations people. He was as much at home in a big-city conference room filled with important people as he was in his goose blind surrounded by family and friends on the goose hunt. He loved the land and brought that connection and grounding to every meeting and negotiation he had with others. He had respect for everyone he sat with and brought his gift of humour and kindness to every situation he encountered. Don't

get me wrong: when he had to stand his ground, his true spirit of the Cree warrior rose to the occasion.

Stan was born on his family's traditional homelands at Lakitusaki, otherwise known as Lake River, north of Attawapiskat. Although he was a Fort Albany First Nation member, Stan moved to Moose Factory when he was a teenager and later was made an honorary member of the Moose Cree First Nation for his many contributions to the community. Stan was in his third consecutive term as *Mushkegowuk* Grand Chief when he was diagnosed with cancer. He also served a five-year term as Deputy Grand Chief of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation. He was presented with a Ministerial Award and the Governor General's Medal of Bravery for his efforts during the Winisk flood of 1986.

In 2011, Stan was awarded an Honourary Doctorate of Education by Nipissing University in recognition of his leadership and service to the *Mushkegowuk* Peoples and all First Nation citizens throughout Canada.

I know that his wife Sharon and his four daughters will always have him at their sides as they heal from such a huge loss. I and many other First Nation people from all across Canada say a special Chi-Meegwetch for sharing your husband/father with us so that we could benefit from his strength, wisdom and courage to make life better for First Nations. I can imagine that Stan and Lindy might be somewhere far away near Lakitusaki like eagles soaring over the green pine, the rivers, the lakes and out onto the great James Bay. I thank them for taking the time to make this little Cree writer from James Bay welcome to their world of giants. I thank them for making me feel big in a world that has mostly made me feel very small and voiceless. Soar high in the sky my friends, and help us when you can.

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